

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Antonio Salazar, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Trujillo asked for a moment to recognize the Police Officers in the community for all the work they do, for responding to calls and for keeping the public safe.

Councilor Montoya asked for a moment of silence for the family of Julianna Chavez and Jeannie Romero who passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Clerk Fresquez advised she had an amendment to the agenda, removing the appointment of Lucy Madrid as she withdrew her name.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilor Casey nominated Councilor Romero as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Councilor Casey for her assistance throughout the year and for stepping in for him.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Appointment of Sally Witters to the Library Board.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of Sally Witters to the Library Board. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo asked Councilor Casey to read the Proclamation for P.E.O.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Ulibarri thanked City Manager Maestas and all the staff for the great job at Rodriguez Park and recommended getting it ready every year when the Little League season starts.

Councilor Montoya thanked City Manager Maestas, Parks and Recreation Director Padilla, Tusa and Cordova Construction for helping at Rodriguez Park and also recommended starting early next year to prepare the fields for the Little League season. Councilor Montoya also recommended having a full time Parks employee and Police Officer for Rodriguez Park. Councilor Montoya advised MainStreet approached him with a drawing but he felt it wasn't acceptable and would like them to go back to the drawing board and draw something about the history of the Fire department or the history of Las Vegas.

Councilor Casey advised one of their City employees Chris Rodarte had a very serious illness and learned that he was doing well and is back on the job. Councilor Casey advised her heart was happy for him, he is one of the hardest workers she knows and he is always willing to do more and responds quickly to constituents requests. Councilor Casey advised there is still flooding on 6th and Baca and asked if they had checked if the drainage collapsed.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised the contractor did not have the equipment but will be scheduling to bring in the equipment.

Councilor Casey thanked the Public Works department for fixing the flooding on 5th and Baca. Councilor Casey also thanked Beatriz from the Animal Care Center for having their adoption events. Councilor Casey asked what the status was on the land on 7th and Lee Drive that was donated to the City.

City Manager Maestas advised he had spoken with Mr. Litherland and the City's attorneys put together a Donation of Land contract, Mr. Litherland had some

questions about certain verbiage in the contract so the City's attorney is refining the contract based on Mr. Litherlands requested verbiage.

Councilor Casey advised she was contacted by the Las Vegas Realtors Association regarding a chunk of money they would like to donate to the City to help towards any type of project. Councilor Casey discussed the negativity on social media, about people posting that the water in Las Vegas is not safe to drink, which is not true. Councilor Casey advised they need to put out advertisements to let the community know there is nothing wrong with the water.

Councilor Romero advised Mr. Ortega had his crew helping at Rodriguez Park as volunteers and suggested Mayor Trujillo give them a Buen Vecino Award. Councilor Romero also thanked all the departments that went out to help. Councilor Romero asked for an update regarding the fence at El Creston Park and the ruts from bringing in equipment.

City Manager Maestas advised he was told that the contractor would have their staff out there to help secure the fence so that it would be more rigid. City Manager Maestas advised he would have to ask Parks about the ruts.

Councilor Romero voiced his concerns regarding an event happening at the Ludi's building without an occupancy approval.

City Manager Maestas advised Fire Chief Spann would be speaking with the owners of the establishment to make sure they are in compliance with code regulations.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Salazar gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of May on the following:

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
- Code Compliance
 - Citations for overgrowth of weeds and trash
- Street Crimes/Narcotics/Evidence
 - Search warrants conducted
- Evidence Seized/Investigations
- Training/Recruiting/Events

- Community Events
 - Torch Run for Special Olympics
- Department vacancies (26)
- Applied for Victims Advocate grant
- Walk the Block/Ride Along for Mayor and Council

Councilor Ulibarri asked if the traffic citations included speeding citations.

Police Chief Salazar advised yes.

Councilor Ulibarri advised there's a lot of speeding on north Grand, 7th and 8th Street and asked that they patrol those areas.

Councilor Montoya asked for an update regarding properties at 322, 318 and 316 west National.

Police Chief Salazar advised they are continuing to proceed with it but there are hurdles they are jumping through.

Councilor Montoya asked about cleaning up 1912 North Gonzales.

Police Chief Salazar advised that property is on their list.

Councilor Montoya advised the Legion Drive project would be starting next week but there are still heavy trucks going through there and asked if an officer could monitor semi trucks on Legion Drive so they don't delay construction.

Police Chief Salazar advised they will patrol that area.

City Manager Maestas advised they need to communicate with Google maps because it gives them the closest route to their destination from Legion.

Councilor Romero suggested placing an ad in the Optic to help find owners for pets at the Animal Care Center.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Martinez reported on the month of May, the General fund revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$917,822), the Enterprise fund expenditures exceeded the revenues resulting in a deficit of (\$482,741) due to a bulk transfer of funds to other operational funds that took place in March rather than on a month to month basis, the Recreation department revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$80,243), Lodger's Tax revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$271,411) and Cannabis revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$90,565).

Finance Director Martinez discussed a chart that Mr. Witters created to show trends within the fiscal year.

Councilor Romero asked Mr. Witters to explain why they requested the reports to be done the way they are.

Mr. Witters advised they are trying to find better ways of tracking the finances, which shows the whole year rather than a single month. Mr. Witters discussed the General fund, the Enterprise fund and the Cannabis fund.

Finance Director Martinez advised beginning in July she would start with month to month transfers for more accurate results.

Mayor Trujillo advised that Lodgers Tax monies need to be spent and would like to see it on the agenda for either the second meeting in July or the first meeting in August for discussion.

Councilor Casey asked if they designated how the Cannabis monies were going to be used.

Mayor Trujillo advised he requested that it be on the agenda for the first meeting in July. Mayor Trujillo thanked Finance Director Martinez for all she's done.

Councilor Montoya asked where the housing reimbursement would come from.

Finance Director Martinez advised it would come from within the General fund.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was anything they needed to be made aware of.

Finance Director Martinez advised no, they should look into addressing projects within the ICIP and using some surplus on a one time cost to get things accomplished.

Councilor Romero discussed State GRT.

PRESENTATIONS

Natasha Martinez, Deputy Director with Northern Regional Housing Authority gave a lengthy discussion on Fair Housing. Ms. Martinez discussed Title 8 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Ms. Martinez discussed how to file a Fair Housing Complaint.

Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry gave a lengthy discussion on the status of Utilities projects that have been completed and some that are in progress.

Mayor Trujillo advised they need to do better at informing the public when projects impact areas in the City. Mayor Trujillo also asked to send out a letter to the public regarding the quality of water and it being drinkable.

Discussion took place regarding alternate routes for water to circulate and a moratorium regarding water taps.

Councilor Romero thanked Utilities Director Gilvarry for the list, and asked if it was stated in the contracts with contractors when the completion date of projects should be done.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised yes, it is in the contract when a project should be completed but some projects are put on hold due to weather delays, supply chain delays and change orders.

Councilor Romero advised he asked for this presentation so the public is informed of what is going on in the City.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of Resolution 23-17 to adopt a Fair Housing Policy for the City of Las Vegas.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve resolution 23-17. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 23-17 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request to purchase one Kenworth T880 tractor truck for the Gas and Water divisions.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the purchase of one Kenworth T880 tractor truck for the Gas and Water divisions. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion.

Councilor Casey asked if they used CES to purchase the equipment.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised yes, and advised there would be no additional fee.

Mayor Trujillo advised there was a motion and a second. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Request to purchase one Front Loader for the Solid Waste division.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the purchase of one Front Loader for the Solid Waste division. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised it was a Packer Truck Front Loader.

4. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-19, adopting an updated travel policy relating to the reimbursement and travel for per diem and mileage expenses for Public Officers and employees of the City of Las Vegas while on official City business.

Finance Director Martinez advised the resolution would update per diem and mileage rates which would go into effect July 1, 2023.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve resolution 23-19. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Councilor Romero advised this resolution would bring the City up to date with the state.

Finance Director Martinez advised the mileage rate would be 62.5 versus the .50 in the past.

Resolution 23-19 was presented as follows:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO
Resolution No. 23-19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN UPDATED TRAVEL POLICY RELATING TO THE REIMBURSEMENT AND TRAVEL FOR PER DIEM AND MILEAGE EXPENSES FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS WHILE ON OFFICIAL CITY BUSINESS

WHEREAS, the State Per Diem and Mileage Act (§10-8-1 to 10-8-8, NMSA 1978) and the State Administrative Code (2.42.2 NMAC) governs the reimbursement for travel of all public officers and employees of local public bodies; and

WHEREAS, the State Per Diem and Mileage Act authorizes the City to adopt, by resolution, regulations relating to the Per Diem and Mileage Act including reducing or eliminating per diem and mileage reimbursement (§10-8-8B, NMSA 1978); and

WHEREAS, this policy repeals and replaces previous travel policies with the adoption of this policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas, that the following rules and regulations regarding per diem, mileage and travel shall become effective on July 1st, 2023:

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this day _____ of June 2023.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

5. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-16, a resolution establishing reasonable notice of City Council Meetings in compliance with the open Meetings Act (OMA).

City Clerk Fresquez advised every year they are required to pass a resolution in reference to their meetings. City Clerk Fresquez discussed changes to pg. 4 regarding the Library Board wanting to meet at the Carnegie Library, the Museum

Board did not want to meet quarterly instead they would meet every second Thursday of the month at 5:15 pm at the Museum.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution 23-16. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 23-16 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

6. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-18, a resolution requesting a national lab regional tax distribution study for Los Alamos National Labs.

Councilor Romero advised he was asked by Representative Joseph Sanchez for support regarding GRT spent in Los Alamos at the labs and that money be distributed among the northern areas.

Councilor Casey advised the fifth whereas needed a closing parentheses after (\$915,000,000). Councilor Casey advised she was in support of the resolution.

Councilor Romero advised there is 300 million in GRT that is generated every month.

Councilor Montoya advised they should ask Senator Campos to ask the Los Alamos labs to bring programs and offices to Las Vegas.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve resolution 23-18. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Resolution 23-18 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

7. Discussion and Consideration of options regarding the Charter amendment adding the 5th Council member that was approved by the voters at the 2022 Municipal Election.

City Clerk Fresquez advised legal counsel VanVleck recommended option C, which was to do nothing, do not act on the charter amendment because to do something would be contrary to law.

Councilor Casey advised they should take the City Attorneys recommendation and do nothing.

Councilor Romero advised he understands that was his recommendation but they're basically accepting they made a mistake, and by letting the voters know by taking it back to the voters.

Councilor Montoya advised he felt doing nothing is not the right thing and preferred option B, to seek a Declaratory Judgement from District Court and let them decide.

Councilor Casey discussed the positive and negative things about each option.

City Clerk Fresquez advised she would need to get any questions they would want in the November Election to the County Clerk by August, so the County Clerk can get it to the Secretary of State.

Councilor Ulibarri advised he preferred option C.

Councilor Casey made a motion to go with option C. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	No
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	No

City Clerk Fresquez advised there was a tie.

Mayor Trujillo voted yes for option C and broke the tie.

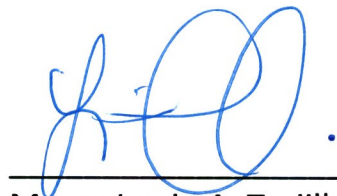
City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor.

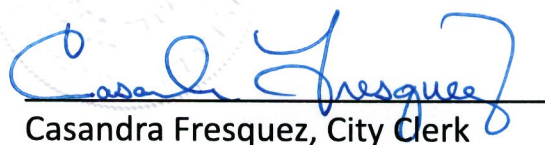
City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk